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LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the position paper of the Government of China on the authorization of the deployment of United Nations military observers in Guatemala by the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
and Permanent Representative of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations

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Annex

Position paper of the Government of China on the authorization of the deployment of United Nations military observers in Guatemala by the Security Council

China has all along supported the peace process in Guatemala and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. We welcome and are gratified by the Peace Agreement reached by the two parties in Guatemala and sincerely hope that peace and stability will thus prevail in the country.

Regrettably, however, the Government of Guatemala has for four consecutive years unscrupulously supported activities aimed at splitting China in the United Nations, in flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in disregard of repeated démarches of the Chinese Government. Furthermore, it was bent on inviting, in disregard of the solemn warnings of the Chinese Government, the Taiwan authorities to the signing ceremony of the Peace Agreement in Guatemala, thereby providing them with a venue for secessionist activities against China.

It is the unshirkable responsibility of all Member States to safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Government of Guatemala by its actions has trampled upon the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, contravened General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, interfered in its internal affairs and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people. The Guatemalan authorities cannot expect to have the cooperation of China in the Security Council while taking actions to infringe upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. No country's peace process should be at the expense of another country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

China has reiterated on many occasions that the above actions by the Government of Guatemala have set serious obstacles to China's support for the authorization of the deployment of military observers to Guatemala by the Security Council and that only when these obstacles are removed can China positively consider this question.

Based on the above position, the Chinese side has made reasonable suggestions for the solution of this question. On this basis, China and Guatemala, through joint efforts, have reached agreement on the relevant questions, thereby removing the obstacles to China's support for the relevant draft resolution.

China would like to reaffirm its consistent principled position on the question of Taiwan. There is but one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the entire Chinese people. The question of Taiwan is a major question of principle that bears upon China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the cause of national reunification. It falls entirely within China's internal affairs and brooks no outside interference whatsoever. The Chinese Government has no room for compromise on this question. It is the unswerving determination of the Chinese Government to safeguard its State sovereignty and territorial integrity.